HIS

MAIESTIES

DECLARATION

To both *Houſes* of Parliament;

(VVhich Hee likewiſe recommends to the conſideration of all His loving Subjects) in Anſwer to That preſented to Him at *New-Market* the ninth of March. 1641.

Printed at *London* for *Thomas Banker*. 1642.

His Maieſties Declaration to both Houſes of Parliament, (which hee likewiſe recommends to the conſideration of all His loving Subjects) in Anſwer to That preſented to Him at *New-Market*, the ninth of March. 1641.

THough the Declaration lately preſented to Us at *New-Market*, from both Our Houſes of Parliament, be of ſo ſtrange a nature, in reſpect of what Wee xpected (after ſo many Acts of Grace and Favour to Our People) and ſome expreſſions in it ſo differeot from the uſuall Language to Princes, that we might well take a very long time to conſider it; Yet the cleareneſſe and uprightneſſe of Our Conſcience to God, and love to Our Subjects, hath ſupplyed Us with a ſpeedy Anſwer, and our unalterable Affection to Our People prevailed with Us, to ſuppreſſe that paſſion, which might well enough become Us, upon ſuch an Invitation.

We have reconſidered Our Anſwer of the firſt of this Moneth at *Theobalds*, which is urged to have given juſt cauſe of ſorrow to Our Subjects. Whoſoever lookes over that Meſſage (which was in effect to tell Us, That if We would not joyne with them (in an Act which We conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdome) they would make a Law without Us, and impoſe it upon Our People) will not thinke that ſudden Anſwer can bee excepted to.

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Wee have little encouragement to Replyes of this nature, when We are told of how little value Our words are like to bee with you, though they come accompanied with all the Actions of Love and Justice, (where there is roome for Actions to accompany them) yet We cannot but disavow the having any such evill Counsell or Counsellours about Us, to Our knowledge, as are mentioned, and if any such be discovered, Wee will leave them to the censure and Judgement of Our Parliament: In the mean time, We could wish, that Our owne immediate Actions which We avow, and Our owne Honour might not be so roughly censured and wounded, under that common stile of Evill Counsellours.

For Our faithfull and zealous affection to the true Protestant Profession, and Our resolution to concur with Our Parliament in any possible course for the propagation of it, and suppression of Popery, We can say no more then We have already expressed in Our Declaration to all Our loving Subjects, published in *January* last, by the advice of Our Privy Counsell, in which We endeavoured to make as lively a confession of Our Selfe, in this point, as We were able, being most assured that the constant Practice of Our Life hath bin answerable thereunto: And therefore We did rather expect a Testimony and Acknowledgement of such Our Zeale and Piety, then those expressions We meet with in this Declaration, of any designe of altering Religion in this Kingdome. And We doe (out of the innocency of Our Soule) wish, That the Judgements of Heaven may be manifested upon those, who have, or had any such Designe.

As for the Scots troubles, We had well thought that those unhappy differences had bin wrapt up in perpetuall silence, by the Act of Oblivion, which being solemnly past in the Parliaments of both Kingdomes, stops Our mouth from any other Reply then to shew Our great dislike for reviving the memory thereof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland*, (so odious to all Christians) seemes to have bin framed and maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence, We conjure both Our Houses of Parliament, and all Our loving Subjects whatsoever, to use all possible meanes to discover and find such out, that We may joyne in the most exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But Wee must thinke Our Selfe highly and causlesly injured in Our Reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or Expression of the *Irish* Rebels, any Letter from

Count *Rosetti* to the Papists, for fasting and praying, or from *Trestram Whitcombe*, of strange speeches uttered in Ireland shall beget any jealousie, or misapprehension in Our Subjects, of our Iustice, Piety, and affection, it being evident to all understandings, That those mischievous and wicked Rebells are not so capable of great advantage, as by having their false discourses so farre believed, as to raise feares and Iealousies to the distraction of this Kingdome, the onely way to their security: And VVe cannot expresse a deeper sense of the suffering of our poor Protestant Subjects in that Kingdom, then we have done in Our often Messages to both Houses, by which VVe have offered, and are still ready to venture Our Royall Person for their Redemption, well knowing, that as We are (in our owne Interest) more concerned in them, so we are to make a strict Account to Almighty God for any neglect of Our duty, or their preservation.

For the manifold attempts to provoke Our late Army, and the Army of the Scots, and to raise a faction in the City of London, and other parts of the Kingdome; If it be said, as relating to Vs, VVe cannot without great indignation, suffer Our Selfe to bee reproached, to have intended the least Force or threatning to Our Parliament, as the being privy to the bringing up of the Army would imply: VVhereas wee call God to witnesse, VVe never had any such thought, or knew of any such resolution concerning our late Army.

For the Petition shewed to Vs by Captaine *Legg*, VVe well remember the same, and the occasion of that Conference; Captaine *Legg* being lately come out of the North, and repairing to Vs at VVhite-hall, VVe asked him of the state of our Armie, and (after some relation made of it) he told Vs that the Commanders and Officers of the Armie had a mind to Petition the Parliament, as others of Our people had done, and shewed Vs the coppy of a Petition, which VVe read, and finding it to be very humble, desiring the Parliament may receive no interruption in the Reformation of the Church and State, to the modell of *Queen Elizabeths* dayes; VVe told him, VVe saw no harme in it: VVhereupon he replyed, That he believed all the Officers of the Army would like it, onely he thought Sir *Iacob Ashley* would

would be unwilling to signe it, out of fear that it might displease Vs. VVe then read the Petition over againe, and then observing nothing in matter or forme, VVe conceived could possibly give just cause of offence; We delivered it to him again, bidding him give it to Sir *Iacob Astley*, for whose satisfaction VVee had written *C. R.* upon it, to testifie Our approbation; and VVe wish that the Petition might be seen and published, and then VVe believe it will prove a dangerous one, nor a just ground for the least jealousie or misapprehension.

For Master *Iarmyn*, it is well knowne, that he was gone from *Whitehall* before we received the desire of both Houses for the restraint of Our servants, neither returned he thither, or passed over by any warrant granted by Vs after that time.

For the breach of Priviledge in the Accusation of the Lord *Kymbolton*, and the five Members of the House of Commons, We thought We had given so ample satisfaction in Our severall Messages to that purpose, that it should bee no more pressed against Vs, being confident if the breach of Priviledge had been greater than hath been ever before offered, Our acknowledgement and retraction hath been greater than ever King hath given, besides the not examining how many of Our Priviledges have been invaded in defence and vindication of the other? And therefore We hoped Our true and earnest Protestation in Our Answer to your Order concerning the *Militia*, would so far have satisfied you of Our intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other designe then VVe there expressed.

But why the sitting of so many Officers, and entertaining them at *Whitehall* should be misconstrued, Wee much marvell, when it is notoriously known, the tumults at *Westminster* were so great, and their demeanours so scandalous and seditious, that We had good cause to suppose our owne Person, and those of Our Wife and Children to be in apparant danger, and therefore We had great reason to appoynt a Guard about Vs, and to accept the dutifull tender of the services of any of Our loving Subjects, which was all We did to the Gentlemen of the Inns of Court.

For the Lord *Digby*, We assure you in the word of a King,

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that he had Our Warrant to passe the Seas, and had left Our Court before We ever heard of the Vote of the House of Commons, or had any cause to imagine that his absence would have been excepted against.

What your advertisements are from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris* and other parts, or what th. *Popes Nuntio* sollicits the Kings of *France* or *Spain* to do, or from what persons such Informations come to you, or how the credit and reputation of such persons have been sifted and examined, We know not, but are confident, no sober honest man in our Kingdomes can beleeve that we are so desperate or so senseless, to entertaine such Designes as would not onely bury this Our Kingdome in suddaine destraction and ruine, but Our owne Name and Posterity in perpetuall scorne and infamy. And therefore wee could have wished, that in matters of so high and tender a nature (wherewith the mindes of Our good Subjects must needs be startled) all the expressions were so plain and easie, that nothing might stick with them with reflection upon Vs; since you thought fit to publish it at all.

And having now dealt thus plainly and freely with you by way of Answer to the particular grounds of your Feares, We hope (upon a due consideration, and weighing both together) you will not find the Grounds to be of that moment to beget, or longer to continue a misunderstanding betwixt Vs, or force you to apply your selves to the use of any other power than what the Law hath given you, the which We allwayes intend shall be the measure of our owne power, and expect it shall be the rule of Our Subjects obedience.

Concerning our feares and jealousies, as We had no intention of accusing you, so are we sure no words spoken by Vs (on the sodaine) at Theobalds will beare that interpretation. Wee said for our Residence neare you, We wisht it might be so safe and honourable, that Wee had no cause to absent Our selfe from White-Hall, and how this can be a breach of Priviledg of Parliament We cannot understand. Wee explained our meaning in Our Answer at New-Market, at the Presentation of this Declaration concerning the printed seditious pamphlets and Sermons, & the great tumults at Westminster: And We must appeal to you and all the world, whether We might not justly suppose Our self

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in danger of either. And if We were now at White-Hall, what ſecurity have We, that the like ſhall not be againe, eſpecially if any Delinquents of that nature have beene apprehended by the Miniſters of Iuſtice, and been reſcued by the People, and ſo as yet eſcape unpuniſhed? If you have not beene informed of the ſeditious words uſed in, and the circumſtances of thoſe Tumults, and will appoint ſome way for the examination of them, We will require ſome of Our learned Counſell to attend with ſuch evidence as may ſatisfie you, and till that be done, or ſome other courſe taken for Our ſecurity, you cannot (with reaſon) wonder that Wee intend not to be where Wee moſt deſire to bee.

And can there yet want evidence of Our hearty and importunate deſire to joyne with Our Parliament, and all Our faithfull Subjects, in defence of the Religion and publique good of the Kingdome? Have We given you no other earneſt but words, to ſecure you of thoſe deſires? The very Remonſtrance of the Houſe of Commons (publiſhed in November laſt) of the State of the Kingdome allowes Vs a more reall teſtimonie of Our good affections then words, that Remonſtrance valued Our Acts of grace and Iuſtice at ſo high a rate, that it declared the Kingdom to bee then a gainer, though it had charged it ſelfe by Bils of Subſidies and Pol-money, with the levy of 600000. pounds, beſides the contracting of a debt to our Scotch Subjects of 220000. pounds.

Are the bils for the Trienniall Parliament, for relinquiſhing Our Title of Impoſing upon Merchandize, and power of preſſing of Souldiers, for the taking away the Star-Chamber, and high-Commiſſion Courts, for the regulating the Counſell Table, but words? Are the Bils for the Forreſts, the Stannery Courts, the Clerk of the Market, and the taking away the Votes of Biſhops out of the Lords Houſe, but words? Laſtly, what greater earneſt of Our truſt and reliance on Our Parliament could or can Wee give, then the paſſing of the Bill for the continuance of this preſent Parliament? The length of which Wee hope will never alter the nature of Parliaments, and the conſtitution of this Kingdome, or invite Our Subjects ſo much to abuſe Our Confidence as to eſteem any thing fit for this Parliament to doe, which were not, if it were in Our power to diſſolve it to morrow. And after

tur all theſe and many other Acts of Grace on Our part (that We might be ſure of a perfect Reconciliation betwixt Vs and al Our Subjects) We have offered, and are ſtill ready to grant a free and generall pardon, as ample as your ſelves ſhall thinke fit. Now if theſe be not reall expreſſions of the Affections of Our Soule, for the publike good of Our Kingdome, We muſt confeſſe that Wee want skill to manifeſt them.

To conclude (although We thinke Our Anſwer already full to that point) concerning our Returne to London: We are willing to declare, that wee looke upon it as a matter of ſo great weight, as with reference to the Affaires of this Kingdome, and to Our owne inclinations and deſires, that if all We can ſay, or doe, can raiſe a mutuall Confidence (the onely way with Gods bleſſing to make us all happy) and by your encouragement the lawes of the Land, and the government of the City of London, may recover ſome life for Our ſecurity, Wee will overtake your deſires, and be as ſoone with you as you can wiſh. And in the meane time, We will be ſure, that neither the buſineſſe of Ireland, or any other advantage for this Kingdome ſhall ſuffer through Our default, or by Our abſence: We being ſo far from repenting the Acts of Our Juſtice, and Grace, which We have already performed to Our people, that We ſhall with the ſame Alacrity, be ſtill ready to adde ſuch new Ones, as may beſt advance the peace Honour and proſperity of this Nation.

FINIS.